



NEWS RELEASE

Lt. Col. John Whitford, Director of Communications, Connecticut National Guard

OFFICE: (860) 524-4857

CELL: (860) 883-5336

EMAIL: JOHN.WHITFORD@CT.NGB.ARMY.MIL

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FORMAL WELCOME HOME CEREMONY FOR C COMPANY, 102ND INFANTRY BATTALION OF BRISTOL

BRISTOL, Conn. – Brig. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, the Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard, announces a formal welcome home ceremony for 40 soldiers from C Company, 102nd Infantry Battalion of Bristol, who were mobilized and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The event will be held Sunday, July 10, 2005 at Bristol Eastern High School at 1:00 p.m.

C Company, 102nd Infantry received the call to active duty on December 7, 2003. On January 8, 2004, they arrived at Ft. Hood Texas, for two months of intensive training in preparation for overseas deployment which culminated with a Mission Readiness Exercise (MRE) at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Ft. Polk, Louisiana.

The unit arrived in Kuwait on March 20, 2004 and immediately conducted transition to combat operations in preparation for the movement into Iraq.

During their deployment, the unit was tasked with capturing or destroying insurgent rocket and mortar teams who were attacking Camp Taji and conducted more than 200 cordon and search operations, 100 raids, counter mortar and counter rocket

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operations, convoy security, route clearance for improvised explosive devices, (IED's), counter insurgent combat patrols, and civil action operations.

C Company was credited with capturing more than 500 of 155mm artillery rounds, 100 Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) warheads, five RPG launchers, 10 RPK machine guns, 50 AK-47 assault rifles, and more than 60 insurgents throughout their 12 months of operations in Iraq.

The Connecticut Army National Guard lost two soldiers from C Company, 102nd Infantry during this deployment, Sgt. Felix Del Greco of Simsbury and Spec. Robert Hoyt of Ashford.

“The outstanding performance by C Company, 102nd Infantry soldiers is in keeping with the finest traditions of military service, reflects great credit upon the unit, the Connecticut Army National Guard and the United States Army,” said Martin.

C Company, 102nd Infantry returned to Connecticut on March 26, 2005.

This event is open to the media.

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